ise in the prices of essential commodities

98. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent months there had been a steep rise in the prices of various essential commodities, nd if so, what were their rates as on the 5th October, 1986; and

(b) what measures Government propose o take to stabilize the prices of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) In the last three months ending 17-10-1987, the Wholesale Price Indices of some commodities have moved up, some have declined and some have remained steady. The wholesale price indices of selected commodities in the week ending 18-10-1986, 18-7-1987 and 17-10-1987 are furnished in the attached Statement. (*See* below).

(b) The main thrust of Government's policy is to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly those which are in short supply. Import of some essential commodities are made to augment domestic supply. Export of certain essential commodities are banned or regulated. The Public Distribution System is being strengthened and expanded. State Governments have been urged, from time to time, to strictly enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations against hoarders, black marketeers etc.

To contain prices and improve availability of essential commodities in the wake of widespread drought conditions, the State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been advised to open additional fair price shops and operate mobile vans. More than 2900 additional fair price shops have been opened since August this year and more than 200 mobile vans are operating in various States Additional allocations of rice, wheat, sugar and imported edible oils have been made to States and U.Ts. in the last few months.

State Governments have been urged to effectively monitor prices and availability of essential commodities, improve the functioning of Public Distribution System and tighten up enforcement measures against hoarders, blackmarketeers, etc. Information received indicates that State Governments have generally taken steps in this direction.

Several meetings with representatives of trade and industry have been held with a view to contain/reduce prices of essential commodities and to improve their supply. As a result, manufacturers have agreed to reduce or refrain from increasing the prices of some commodities, such as vanaspati, soap, tea, maida and butter.

Statement

Wholesale Price Indices of Selected Commodities as in the week-ending 18-10-1986, 18-7-1987 *and* 17-10-1987

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index as in week-ending		
	18-10-86	18-7-1987	17-10-1987
1	2	3	4
Rice	317 5	318.3	334.8
Wheat	239 4	242 6	252.7
Jowar	252 0	282 7	264 8
Bajra	272 5	291 0	308.5
Gram	415.6	533 2	506 7
Arhar	425.3	536 4	563.6

1	2	3	4
Moong	353 6	445 1	429 9
Masoor	499 5	516 2	539 4
Urad	378 6	407 8	426 9
Potatoes	486 6	325 7	311 2
Onions	485 2	558.5	1036 9
Milk	306.9	317.2	330 6
Fish	449.2	654 8	491 5
Meat	571 8	597.5	591 6
Chillies	142 8	139.5	252 2
Tea	453 5	437.3	429 2
Coke	606 3	606 3	606 3
Kerosene	410 4	410 4	410 4
Atta	262 9	253 5	259 3
Sugar	301 5	310 0	311 8
Gur	529 3	445 6	481 1
Vanaspati	349.7	430 1	429 4
Groundnut Oil	423 0	527 5	529 2
Mustard Oil	356.1	463 0	497 7
Coconut Oil	402 8	456 1	481 2
Gingelly Oil	367.9	464 8	433 2
Salt	235.2	240 4	242 4
Cotton cloth (mills)	272 6	276 7	279 8
Soap	339 0	422 0	475 6
Matches	129.0	129 0	129 0
ALL COMMODITIES	384 9	401.7	408 4

Rise in Prices of Vegetables

99 SHRI F M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent months there had been a steep rise in the prices of vegetables; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to stabilize the prices of vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The prices of important vegetables have generally shown increase since July, 1987. The wholesale price Index Numbers (Base 1970-71=100) in respect of the vegetables (group as a whole) for the months of July, August, September and October